

**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program
Evaluation Criteria Scoring Guideline
Per 4280-B Regulation**

Name of Applicant: _____
Type of Technology: _____
Funding Request: _____
Final Total Score (sum of Categories 1-10):

List the maximum points the applicant is eligible for under each of the following ten categories, sum the individual scores, and place the total in the above box under "Final Total Score."

(1) Quantity of Energy Replaced, Produced, or Saved

Points may only be awarded for one category (A, B, or C).

(A) Energy replacement

If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for self use by the agricultural producer or rural small business, and will provide energy replacement of:

Greater than 0 but equal to or less than 25%, award 5 points.	Points
Greater than 25%, but equal to or less than 50%, award 10 points.	
Greater than 50%, award 15 points.	
Determine energy replacement by dividing the estimated quantity of renewable energy to be generated over a 12-month period by the estimated quantity of energy consumed over the same 12-month period during the previous year by the applicable energy application. The estimated quantities of energy must be converted to British thermal units (BTU's), Watts, or similar energy equivalents to facilitate scoring. If the estimated energy produced equals more than 150% of the energy requirements of the applicable process(es), score the project as an energy generation project.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.

You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.

Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

Or

(B) Energy Savings (include additional 5 points if applicable)

(1) If the estimated energy expected to be saved by the installation of the energy efficiency improvements will be from:

20% up to but not including 30%, award 5 points.	Points
30% up to but not including 35%, award 10 points.	
35% or greater, award 15 points.	
Energy savings will be determined by the projections in an energy assessment or audit.	

(2) Additional points.

If the project has total eligible project costs of \$50,000 or less AND opts to obtain a professional energy audit, award an additional 5 points.	Points
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Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

Or

(C) Energy generation

If the proposed renewable energy system is intended primarily for production of energy for sale, award 10 points.	Points
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Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(2) Environmental benefits

If the purpose of the proposed system contributes to the environmental goals and objectives of other Federal, State, or local programs, award 10 points.	Points
Award points only if the applicant provides documentation from an appropriate authority supporting this claim.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(3) Commercial availability

If the proposed system or improvement is currently commercially available and replicable, award 5 points.	Points
If the proposed system or improvement is commercially available and replicable and is also provided with a 5-year or longer warranty providing the purchaser protection against system degradation or breakdown or component breakdown, award 10 points.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(4) Technical Merit - Score each paragraph (A) through (J) within this category according to the following rules. The contents of the Technical report will substantiate the score for technical merit. The total possible points for Technical Merit is 35.

Scoring Rules for Technical Merit

If the description in the subparagraph ...	Award
Has no significant weaknesses and exceeds the requirements of the subparagraph,	100% of the total possible score.
Has one or more significant strengths, and meets the requirements of the subparagraph,	80% of the total possible score.
Meets the basic requirements of the subparagraph, but also has several weaknesses,	60% of the total possible score.
Is lacking in one or more critical aspects, key issues have not been addressed, but the description demonstrates some merit or strengths,	40% of the total possible score.
Has serious deficiencies, internal inconsistencies, or is missing information,	20% of the total possible score.
Has no merit in this area,	0% of the total possible score.

Technical Merit Scoresheet

The 10 subparagraphs which are the basis for evaluation.	Maximum possible score	% of score awarded	Score Awarded
(A) Qualifications of the project team. The applicant has described the project team service providers, their professional credentials, and relevant experience. The description supports that the project team service, equipment, and installation providers have the necessary professional credentials, licenses, certifications, or relevant experience to develop the proposed project.	10		
(B) Agreements and Permits. The applicant has described the necessary agreements and permits required for the project and the schedule for securing those agreements and permits.	5		
(C) Energy or Resource Assessment. The applicant has described the quality and availability of a suitable renewable resource or an assessment of expected energy savings for the proposed system.	10		

Technical Merit Scoresheet (concluded)

The 10 subparagraphs which are the basis for evaluation.	Maximum possible score	% of score awarded	Score Awarded
(D) Design and Engineering. The applicant has described the design, engineering, and testing needed for the proposed project. The description supports that the system will be designed, engineered, and tested so as to meet its intended purpose, ensure public safety, and comply with applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards.	30		
(E) Project Development Schedule. The applicant has described the development method, including the key project development activities and the proposed schedule for each activity. The description identifies each significant task, its beginning and end, and its relationship to the time needed to initiate and carry the project through to successful completion. The description addresses grantee or borrower project development cashflow requirements.	5		
(F) Project Economic Assessment. The applicant has described the financial performance of the proposed project, including the calculation of simple payback. The description addresses project costs and revenues, such as applicable investment and production incentives, and other information to allow the assessment of the project's cost effectiveness.	20		
(G) Equipment Procurement. The applicant has described the availability of the equipment required by the system. The description supports that the required equipment is available, and can be procured and delivered within the proposed project development schedule.	5		
(H) Equipment Installation. The applicant has described the plan for site development and system installation.	5		
(I) Operations and Maintenance. The applicant has described the operations and maintenance requirements of the system necessary for the system to operate as designed over the design life.	5		

The 10 subparagraphs which are the basis for evaluation.	Maximum possible score	% of score awarded	Score Awarded
(J) Dismantling and disposal of project components. The applicant has described the requirements for dismantling and disposing of project components at the end of their useful lives and associated wastes.	5		
Total Possible Score	100	Total Score Awarded	
$\frac{\text{Total Score Awarded}}{\text{Total Possible Score}} \frac{\quad}{100} = \quad \% \times 35 \text{ total possible} = \quad \text{points}$			Points awarded

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(5) Readiness (Grants only)

If the applicant has written commitments, prior to the Agency receiving the complete application, from the source(s) confirming commitment of:

50% up to, but not including, 75% of the matching funds, award 5 points.	Points
75% up to, but not including, 100% of the matching funds, award 10 points.	
100% of the matching funds, award 15 points.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(6) Small Agricultural Producer/Very Small Rural Business

If the applicant is an agricultural producer producing agricultural products with a gross market value of:

less than \$600,000 in the preceding year, award 5 points.	
less than \$200,000 in the preceding year, OR is a Very Small Rural Business as defined in 4280.103 (a business with less than 15 employees and less than \$1 million in annual receipts), award 10 points.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(7) Simplified application

If an applicant is eligible for and uses the simplified application process or if the project has total eligible project costs of \$200,000 or less, award 5 points.	Points
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Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(8) Previous grantees and borrowers

If the applicant has not been awarded a grant or loan under this program within the 2 previous Federal fiscal years, award 5 points.	Points
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Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(9) Return on investment

If the proposed project will return the cost of investment in

Less than 4 years, award 10 points.	Points
4 years up to but not including 8 years, award 4 points.	
8 years up to 11 years, award 2 point.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.

(10) Loan Rate (Guaranteed Loans only; 4280.129 (e)):

If the rate of the loan is below the Prime Rate (as published in the Wall Street Journal) plus 1.5 percent, award 5 points; OR	Points
If the rate of the loan below the Prime Rate (as published in the Wall Street Journal) plus 1 percent, award 10 points.	

Attach the documentation to substantiate this score for this category.
You have identified this documentation via tab #_____.
Your explanation of points awarded to be entered into the tracking system.